

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /068 W
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R 260615Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9147
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
DIA
COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4354

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, TH
SUBJECT: SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CPT

1. BANGKOK POST FEBRUARY 26 HEADLINES AN INTERVIEW WITH GROUP CAPTAIN PRASONG SUNSIRI, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, IN WHICH PRASONG CLAIMS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONTESTING CHINESE CONTROL OVER THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND (CPT). ARTICLE QUOTES PRASONG AS SAYING THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE SLACKENING OF DIRECT CHINESE BACKING FOR THE CPT FOLLOWING PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO THE PRC. THE SOVIETS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH NORTH VIETNAM, ARE TRYING TO GAIN AS MUCH CONTROL AS POSSIBLE OVER THE CPT "SINCE THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND CHINA", PRASONG SAYS. HE ASSERTS THAT THE KGB IS HEAVILY FINANCING THE CPT'S ACTIVITIES.

2. COMMENT: THIS DISCLOSURE BY PRASONG MIGHT BE A DISTORTION OF A CONCLUSION REACHED BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE RTG THAT THERE IS A SPLIT WITHIN THE CPT ALONG PEKING/HANOI LINES (BANGKOK 1034 NOTAL. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ASSERTION THAT A SPLIT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE PRC-ORIENTED CPT, BUT HAVE BEEN
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WATCHING FOR SOME SIGNS OF IT. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE IN PRC SUPPORT FOR THE INSURGENTS SINCE

PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT'S VISIT TO THE PRC.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION OF INCREASED NORTH VIETNAMESE (SOVIET) ASSISTANCE TO THE CPT. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON DIRECT SOVIET FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CPT, AND GIVEN THE TONE OF THE OCTOBER 26, 1975 BROADCAST BY RADIO MOSCOW, IN WHICH THE CPT WAS STRONGLY ATTACKED AS " A MAO TSE-TUNG CLIQUE" AND "PRO-PEKING REBELS," IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE SOVIET/PRC IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE HAS WON A LARGE ENOUGH SEGMENT OF THE CPT MEMBERSHIP OVER TO THE SOVIETS' SIDE TO RESULT IN DIRECT SOVIET FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE CPT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO04354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760072-0598
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760212/aaaaajnq.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CPT
TAGS: PINS, TH, CH, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006